

November 28, 2014

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Received & Inspected

DEC 08 2014

FCC Mail Room

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Secretary Dortch,

I am writing you about the high cost of in-state phones calls for inmates in the Pennsylvania state prison system. My parents live only one county below the one this prison SCI Mahanoy is located in. Yet it costs \$5.15 plus 6% Sales tax, which comes to about \$5.50, to call them. This is far more expensive than it costs for out-of-state phone calls.

I accept any punishment I have incurred due to my crime. I do not write to complain about food, wages, or other in-house issues to any government agency. But these phone rates are penalizing family members more than anyone. My parents are in their late 70's. They can not visit very often. So all they have are the phone calls I can make on a phone card I have to purchase inside the prison. This is because to arrange collect calls is such a hassle, and problematic, especially for elderly people, that it is just easier for me to purchase these prepaid phone cards.

But as I stated the cost of each call is exorbitant and unjustified. The recidivism rates for inmates is bad enough but anything that places a greater burden on an inmate maintaining positive ties and reinforcements from his family will only add to the likelihood a paroled inmate will return. Charging \$5.50 (this includes the sales tax for the phone card) for a 15 minute call has no penological benefit other than helping the coffers of the phone companies.

Please note I would like this to be a part of a public comment on WC Docket Number 12-375 and I would like these comments to be made a part of the public docket. I thank you!

Sincerely,

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Joseph Schaeffer

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